

YOUR GARDEN AND THE SOUND



Our Coastal Waters are the Heart of our Region

Water quality in any area affects the quality of life. Industry, recreation and even the wholesomeness of the fish and shellfish you eat depend on it. **Streams, rivers and storm drains** are direct connections from your yard to rivers, Long Island Sound, bays and the ocean. What you do in your yard contributes to clean or polluted coastal and groundwaters. *Sound Gardening* practices can reduce the threat to water quality while helping you have a better garden.

Our Sound is in Trouble

Many areas of Long Island Sound suffer from past and present pollution. Efforts such as the

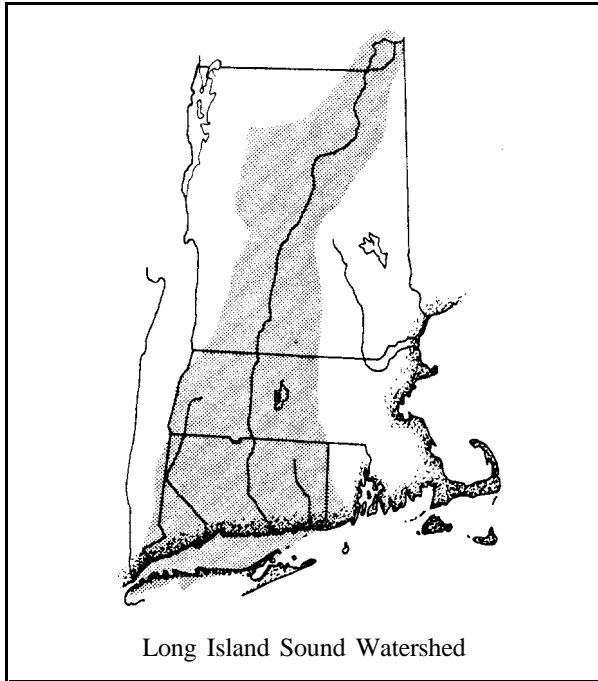
federally-sponsored Long Island Sound Study are underway to clean up and protect the Sound.

We have long been aware of pollution from *point sources* such as factories and sewage treatment plants. We have recently become more aware of the threat of *nonpoint source* pollution. This is pollution created by many relatively small and widespread sources such as stormwater runoff. Each of these sources by themselves may seem insignificant; but, added together they pose a serious threat.

Garden Practices Affect Water Quality

There are hundreds of thousands of homes with gardens in Connecticut and New York that potentially contribute runoff to Long Island Sound. Each may contribute a relatively small amount of runoff containing

soil, chemicals, and fertilizers. They add up to a sizable problem. **Nonpoint** pollution will be controlled only when individuals take responsibility and make wise choices.



Long Island Sound Watershed

Everyone Lives in a Watershed

Each time it rains or snows, **almost** every square inch of the region contributes to the water flow into Long Island Sound and the ocean. Rivers, streams, groundwater, gutters, storm and sanitary sewer systems, hills and bottom lands **are all** part of the system.

Everyone Lives on a Stream

Whether a stream is a natural channel or a constructed one like a storm sewer, **the** effect is the same. Eroding soil and the runoff or leaching of fertilizers and chemicals have an impact on our lakes, streams, bays and the Sound. Most storm sewerwater goes into the Sound or groundwater untreated. Even sewage treatment does not remove all pollutants.

Whatever is poured, spread or sprayed on plants or the ground in excess can find its way into the Sound or groundwater. Just because a problem flows away from the property does not mean it is eliminated.



SOUND GARDENING

This is a program to integrate good gardening practices with good water quality practices. The same simple, practical techniques that improve the soil, beautify the landscape and reduce maintenance time and cost, can also protect the quality of our water and the Sound. Sound **Gardening can** add not only to the value of your property and the pleasure derived from it, but also contributes to a cleaner Long Island Sound.

REMEMBER

The key to Sound **Gardening** is to reduce the amount of potential contaminants introduced into the environment by overfertilization and indiscriminate use of pesticides and to minimize the amount of water that runs off your property.

For more information about Sound Gardening for both a better garden and a cleaner Sound, call or visit your local Cooperative Extension office.

In Connecticut:
Storrs: (203)486-3435
Fairfield: (203)797-4176
Hartford: (203)241-4940
New London: (203)887-1608
Windham: (203)774-9600
Litchfield: (203)567-9447
Middlesex: (203)345-4511
New Haven: (203)789-7865
Tolland: (203)875-3331

In New York:
Nassau: (516)454-0900
Suffolk: (516)727-7850
Westchester: (914)682-3072

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